

28225
28224**Latimer, Becky**

From: Latimer, Becky
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 11:52 AM
To:
Subject: RE: Oppose Duke increase

Dear Adair Watters,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protestant File of the Dockets listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

- Docket No. 2018-318-E - Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs and Request for an Accounting Order
- Docket No. 2018-319-E - Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC for Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs and Request for an Accounting Order

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow the Dockets and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow the individual Dockets at the links listed below:

Docket No. 2018-318-E - Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs and Request for an Accounting Order - <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/116871>

Docket No. 2018-319-E - Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC for Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs and Request for an Accounting Order - <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/116872>

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Deborah Easterling
 Executive Assistant
 Public Service Commission of South Carolina
 803-896-5133

Sign up for Meeting Agenda Alerts: Text [PSCAGENDAS](https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email) to [39492](https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email)

From: DeSanty, Tricia
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 11:19 AM
To: Easterling, Deborah <Deborah.Easterling@psc.sc.gov>
Cc: Adams, Hope <Hope.Adams@psc.sc.gov>; Latimer, Becky <Becky.Latimer@psc.sc.gov>; Duke, Daphne <Daphne.Duke@psc.sc.gov>
Subject: FW: Oppose Duke increase

From: Adair Watters
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 12:21 PM
To: PSC_Commissioner.Ervin
Subject: Oppose Duke increase

Dear Commissioner Ervin,

I am writing to oppose the 2018 Rate Case by Duke Energy Carolinas and the increases it proposes to go into effect in 2019. Specifically, I oppose the proposed residential increase of 12.1% and the Basic Facility Charge increase of 238%.

According to data available on the ORS website, "Duke energy Carolinas - Rate RS, Historical Residential Bills", between October 1st, 2005 and October 1st, 2018 Duke residential rates for "1000 kwh" have increased 57%. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, CPI index prices in 2018 are 28.6% higher than prices in 2005. The dollar experienced an average inflation rate of 1.95% per year during this. So, Duke's increases have outpaced inflation by 100%. Using that same data set, I can see that during this time there were 34 residential rate increases. Of particular interest were the following:

2/1/2010	15.4%	attributable to Rate Case, DSM/EE Rider, Pension Rider, Coal Inventory Rider, Nuclear Insurance.
2/8/2012	6.1%	attributable to Rate Case
12/1/2012	1.5%	attributable to Rate Case
9/18/2013	6.5%	attributable to Rate Case
9/18/2014	2.8%	attributable to Rate Case

Thirty-four rate increases in thirteen years simply defies logic to me. I oppose any rate increase at this time.

I have properties in SC and NC. I received a notification in my NC electricity bill stating that "...effective for service rendered on or after December 1st, 2018 rates increased to fund a new Job Retention Rider that was approved in Duke Energy Carolinas 2018 General Rate Case", etc. I don't understand why consumers pay for a job retention effort because Duke is having problem retaining people.

That prompted me to call the help desk at Duke Energy for more complete information on my SC bill and why it was higher than the total of the rate per kwh times my kwh usage plus the current base rate charge of \$8.29 per month by an average of about \$20 per month in 2018.

The first help desk representative told me it was probably sales tax, but I learned later that we don't pay sales tax on the service. The second help desk representative told me something about "riders" that was not clear. I have not gotten a complete answer yet.

I worked for a building service contractor for 25 years and Duke was a significant customer. I remember talking to their purchasing department after a federal minimum wage increase one year. We were told in no uncertain terms that we could not increase our rates because the federal government was making us pay our direct service staff more. I'd like to see the PSC take this approach with Duke Energy. My experience tells me that people don't tighten belts unless they have to.

I understand that management's goals include maintaining a high rate of return for stockholders however management problems such as the failed Lee Steam project, employee issues or mis-handling the coal ash waste should be borne by stockholders, not consumers.

I urge you and the other commissioners to oppose this rate increase.

Adair Watters

By the way, I appreciate your stand last year regarding SCE&G and their misleading regulators about the cost of their failed project.